[18th December 1922

Grouping of villages in North Arcot.

593 Q.—Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar: With regard to the grouping of villages in the North Arcot district it appears that only small villages and hamlets are intended to be clubbed with big villages, but in some cases it is seen that big villages are merged in smaller ones; will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to explain the reason for such irregular procedure?

A.—In the absence of specific details, the Government are not aware of any irregularity.

Admission of an Adi-Dravida as member of the Valavanur Union Board, South Arcot.

594 Q.—Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state why no Panchama has been appointed as a member of the Valavanur union board, South Arcot district?

A.—The power to appoint members to union boards is vested in presidents of taluk boards.

Conviction of Mr. G. Vasudeva Ayyar, pleader of Salem.

595 Q.—Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the course of the judgment convicting one Mr. G. Vasudeva Ayyar, a pleader of Salem, it was specifically stated that he should be given mixed rice; and, if so, whether such an order is warranted by any Act or Statute in force?

A.—The Government have no information. Magistrates do not issue orders as to the diet which a prisoner is to receive in jail, but they are required by executive order to note on the warrant the diet to which the prisoner is accustomed.

The North Arcot district board.

596 Q.—Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state how and under what circumstances the member's seat occupied by M.R.Ry. A. Tangavelu Nayagar Avargal, M.L.C., on the North Arcot district board came to be filled up by another gentleman?

A.—The Government are informed that the hon. Member failed to attend the meetings of the North Arcot district board for three consecutive months and that he was one of the honorary magistrates for the town of Arcot. Thereby, under clauses (*h*) and (*e*) of sub-section (1) of section 56 of the Madras Local Boards Act, he ceased to hold office in the district board, and because he continued to be an honorary magistrate he could neither be restored under sub-section (4) of section 56 nor reappointed as a member of the district board.

Increase of wards in the Vellore municipality.

597 Q.—Mr. A. Tangavelu Nayagar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether he is in receipt of a mahazar from the citizens of Vellore municipality praying for the increase in the number of wards in the said municipality; and, if so, what action has been taken thereon?

A.—The answer is in the negative.